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Key judicial bodies reshaped post-27th Amendment

• Justice Mandokhail inducted into Supreme Judicial Council • Also joins three-member SC Practice and Procedure Committee • FCC Justice Aamer Farooq made JCP member • SC says new bodies to play role in matters of accountability, judicial appointments
• International Commission of Jurists voices concerns

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: As the dust settles after the passage of the 27th Amendment, changes have been made to key constitutional and statutory judicial bodies.

Following the restructuring, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail of the Supreme Court has been included in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and the Practice and Procedure Committee, while Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) Justice Aamer Farooq has been made a member of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP).

Among the three statutory bodies, the SJC is the top forum for judicial accountability, as it investigates allegations of misconduct against judges. The Practice and Procedure Committee forms benches and fixes cases, while the JCP is responsible for appointing judges to the superior judiciary.

Confusion deepens over relocation of IHC to its former premises at G-10 sector: Page 4

Changes in their composition were required to synchronise them with the latest constitutional amendment.

A Supreme Court press release issued on Tuesday said: "Pursuant to the 27th Constitutional Amendment, [these] key constitutional and statutory judicial bodies […] have been reconstituted in accordance with the revised constitutional framework."

Elaborating on the changes, the statement said Justice Mandokhail, being the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, had been jointly nominated by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi and FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan as a member of the SJC.

Apart from Justice Mandokhail, the SJC will now comprise the CJP, FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin, Justice Munib Akhtar of the Supreme Court, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi of the FCC, Lahore High Court Chief Justice Aalia Neelum and Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar.

Under the 27th Amendment, the SJC is to be headed by the senior-most judge between the CJP and the FCC chief justice, with inter se seniority determined by the dates of their appointment as heads of their respective courts. This means CJP Yahya Afridi will continue to chair the body.

The Supreme Court statement added that the two chief justices had also nominated Justice Mandokhail to the Practice and Procedure Committee.

Under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, the three-judge committee will now comprise the CJP, Justice Akhtar, and Justice Mandokhail, who has become the second-most senior judge following the resignation of Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah.

According to the Supreme Court, Justice Aamer Farooq, the second-most senior judge of the FCC, was jointly nominated by the chief justices of the Supreme Court and FCC as a member of the JCP.

The reconstituted JCP will now comprise the CJP, the FCC chief justice, Justice Munib Akhtar, FCC Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Aamer Farooq, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Pakistan Bar Council representative Ahsan Bhoon, two members of the National Assembly, two members of the Senate and a woman or non-Muslim nominated by the National Assembly speaker.

"The reconstituted bodies will continue to play a central role in matters of

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ISLAMABAD: Members of the opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahaffuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan protest against the 27th Amendment, outside Parliament House.—Mohammad Asim/White Star

Cloudflare fault hits world's productivity

• Company restores services; says no evidence of cyberattack • Fault traced to auto-generated security file that crashed traffic software • Canva, X, ChatGPT among services widely inaccessible

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: Major internet platforms, including X and ChatGPT, were inaccessible for thousands of users globally on Tuesday as web-infrastructure firm Cloudflare was hit by an outage, disrupting internet services.

The company, which runs one of the world's largest networks that helps websites and apps load faster and stay online by protecting them from traffic surges and cyberattacks, later said it had fully restored its services.

It said the outage that began around 6.30am ET was caused by an automatically generated configuration file, designed to manage potential security threats.

The file grew too large and crashed the software system handling traffic for several Cloudflare services, the company, whose network handles around a fifth of web traffic, said.

The company said it has started to investigate and has deployed a fix, but some customers might still be impacted as it recovers service globally. Its shares were down 2.3 per cent in morning trading.

Cloudflare said there was "no evidence that this was the result of an attack or caused by malicious activity".

Last month, an outage at Amazon's cloud service caused global turmoil as thousands of popular websites and apps, including Snapchat and Reddit, were inaccessible due to the disruption.

The latest outage at Cloudflare prevented thousands of users from

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Opposition marches from parliament to apex court

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Opposition lawmakers on Tuesday marched from Parliament House to the Supreme Court, only a couple of minutes away, to express their reservations against the 27th Amendment, which relegated the status of the apex court in favour of the Federal Constitutional Court.

MNA Mehmood Khan Achakzai, who has been nominated for the National Assembly opposition leader slot by the PTI, led the march attended by PTI interim chief Gohar Ali Khan, Ali Muhammad Khan, Sajid Tareen, Allama Nasir Abbas and others. The Islamabad police ensured strict security for the lawmakers and deployed officials to manage traffic and prevent any untoward situation.

The PTI also held a protest outside the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, where the jail administration did not allow the party leaders and Imran Khan's family to meet the former premier. The PTI supporters subsequently held a sit-in outside the jail against the decision and criticised the prison administration for violating the court order in this regard.

Aleema Khan said it was unfortunate that the Adiala admin did not allow them to meet Mr Khan. She added that the meeting was barred because she was sharing the messages of Imran Khan with the nation. She said she would not return home until she was allowed a meeting with her brother. However, the police rounded up a number of PTI supporters

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Amid Hamas misgivings, Trump and Israel hail UN vote on Gaza

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday thanked Pakistan and other members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for approving his administration's plan to steer Gaza towards long-term stability, calling the vote "one of the biggest approvals in the history of the United Nations".

Gaza resolution: Editorial on Page 6

In a post on his Truth Social platform, President Trump also thanked China and Russia for not vetoing the US-drafted resolution, even though both abstained.

"Congratulations to the world on the incredible vote of the United Nations Security Council… acknowledging and endorsing the Board of Peace, which will be chaired by me," he wrote, describing the move as "a moment of true historic proportion."

The resolution, adopted on Monday evening in New York, lays out a multi-phase

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ON OTHER PAGES

1st bunkering facility at Karachi Port

The country has launched its first standardised bunkering operations at the Karachi Port, aligning Pakistan's largest port with global maritime safety and operational standards. Bunkering is the fuelling of ships for propulsion and onboard machinery, involving the storage, transfer, and management of marine fuels like oil and gas. Proper bunkering ensures safe, efficient, and environmentally-compliant refuelling. **Page 9**

ECC clears Rs51bn for defence projects, border security

• Establishes Wheat Stock Management Company to replace Passco • Turkish petroleum firm gets operatorship in offshore exploration block • Deal expected to bring foreign investment, offshore technical expertise

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet on Tuesday approved about Rs51 billion in supplementary grants for security and defence needs, mostly for areas bordering Balochistan, and allowed the farming out of an offshore exploration block to a Turkish state-owned firm.

The ECC meeting, presided over by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, also formally approved the creation of a new special-purpose vehicle (SPV) to handle wheat stock financing in place of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (Passco), which the government has ordered to be wound up.

An official statement said the committee "approved a summary from the Defence Division, granting a TSG (technical supplementary grant) of Rs50bn for a range of approved projects of the Defence Services".

Sources said a major chunk of the funds would go towards beefing up border security and surveillance, mostly along the Pakistan-Iran border and partly along the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier.

The ECC also approved two more grants worth about Rs941 million on the request of the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control. The first grant of Rs100.3m will be used for the maintenance and repair of defence equipment utilised by the federal civil armed forces, while the second grant of Rs841.56m will support border control operations, internal security, and the maintenance of law and order by the same forces.

The committee also approved a request from Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL), a state-owned entity, to farm out 25 per cent of its stake in the Eastern Offshore Block-C to Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company (TPOC).

PPL had secured the exploration block in 2019 with 100pc shareholding and, on the federal government's insistence, agreed to bring in TPOC and other local state-owned enterprises — Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) and Mari Energies — for drilling of wells. The participating firms signed the relevant agreements last month.

The ECC formally allowed PPL's assignment of participating interests in the Eastern Offshore Block C. Under the approved arrangement, PPL will retain a 35pc majority share, while the 25pc participating interest, along with operatorship, has been transferred to TPOC.

Mari Energies and OGDCL will each hold 20pc. The

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